

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7962

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 04919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MARIE-MADELEINE DIENESCH, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG

1. GOF HAS RECENTLY NAMED A PROMINENT PRO-GAULLIST WOMAN POLITICIAN AS AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG. SHE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT IN WOMEN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS AND AS A SECRETARY OF STATE IN NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1968.

2. BORN IN CAIRO IN 1914, MISS DIENESCH HOLDS DIPLOMAS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN LITERATURE AND GREEK AND WAS A TEACHER UNTIL AFTER THE WAR. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE TWO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES AND AN MRP (CENTRIST) DEPUTY TO THE FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1946 TO 1951. SHE WAS REELECTED FROM BRITTANY IN 1959, 1962, 1967 AND 1968, AND WAS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM DECEMBER 1958 TO OCTOBER 1959. IN 1967 MISS DIENESCH JOINED THE DEMOCRATIC UNION FOR THE FIFTH REPUBLIC AND IN 1968 RAN ON THE UDR TICKET. SHE WAS NAMED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN 1966 AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL, FAMILY, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN 1967.

3. MISS DIENESCH ENTERED THE FOURTH POMPIDOU CABINET IN 1968 AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION.

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HER SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL POSTS HAVE INCLUDED

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS (1968-1969),
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL ACTION AND READAPTATION
(1969-1972), SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
(1972-1973) AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SECURITY (1973-1974). SINCE THEN SHE HAS
SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE "DEMOCRATS FOR THE FIFTH
REPUBLIC," A MOVEMENT OF FORMER MRP MEMBERS WHO HAVE
RALLIED TO THE UDR.

4. MISS DIENESCH IS DESCRIBED AS A LIBERAL IN DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS LITTLE INFORMATION ON
HER FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS, SHE PROBABLY SHARES WITH
OTHER CENTRIST POLITICIANS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD
A UNITED EUROPE AND TOWARD THE US.

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